

Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group
FINAL: Minutes for August Meeting
8/10/05

Minutes by Dorothy Shoemaker

Present at meeting:

Neighborhood Associations:

Robin Plance	(b) (6)	St. Johns Neighborhood, CAG Chair
		Administrative committee coordinator
Peter Laughingwolf	(b) (6)	Cathedral Park Neighborhood
Jeanne Longley	(b) (6)	Linnton Neighborhood

Environment:

Dorothy Shoemaker	dorothy.shoemaker@oregon.sierraclub.org	Sierra Club, CAG Secretary
Joe Keating	(b) (6)	Oregon Wildlife Federation
Rhett Lawrence	rhett@ospirg.org	Education and Outreach coordinator OSPIRG

Business:

Steve Gunther	(b) (6)	Progressive Products and Services
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Recreation:

Bill Egan	no email, (b) (6)	Oregon Bass and Panfish Club
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At-Large:

Jim Robison	(b) (6)	Citizen
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Jackie Calder	(b) (6)	Citizen
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Tom Chisolm	(b) (6)	Citizen
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Bill McCauley	no email, (b) (6)	Citizen
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Absent:

Environment:

Travis Williams	travis@willamette-riverkeeper.org	Willamette Riverkeeper
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Health:

Jane Harris	jane@oregon-health.org	Oregon Center for Environmental Health (OCEH), Evaluation Committee coordinator
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Recreation:

Bill Barrett	(b) (6)	Waterfront Org. of Oregon (WOO)
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Others present:

(b) (6)		Citizen
Barbara Smith	Barbara@harrisandsmith.com	Lower Willamette Group (LWG)
Regina Skarzinskas	regina@TASLLC.com	Willamette-Riverkeeper
Sue Safford	susan.safford@portofportland.com	Port of Portland
Mikell O'Mealy	omealy.mikell@deq.state.or.us	DEQ
Judy Smith	smith.judy@epa.gov	EPA
Aron Borok	aron.borok@eiltld.net	EI/Tribes
Jim Anderson	Anderson.jim@deq.state.or.us	DEQ
Mikell O'Mealy	omealy.mikell@deq.state.or.us	DEQ

Meeting brought to order by Robin Plance, Chair of Portland Harbor CAG, at 6:15 PM.
adjourned by Robin Plance at 8:15 PM. The CAG now meets at the City of Portland
Water Lab.

Our next meeting is September 13, 2005, at the Water Lab. We welcome everyone
interested in the Portland Harbor cleanup. There will not be a closed section to the
meeting on 9/13/05.

Letter to EPA:

Dorothy Shoemaker was instructed to add the CAG's letter to Sean Seldrake to the CAG
website: www.portlandharborcag.org. The letter objects to a Confined Disposal Facility
at the Port of Portland.

(b) (6) had written a draft of the letter to be sent from the CAG
to Sean Seldrake at the EPA objecting to the Port of Portland's plan to build a CDF at
Terminal 4, Slip 3. We discussed the letter. Two or three CAG members objected to the
implication that the CAG had ruled out all CDFs.

We disagreed about this sentence: "We were unanimous in our feeling that this proposal
is not protective of public health and the environment and that the unresolved issues
preclude the use of the CDF as a remedial action at T-4."

MOTION: Accept the letter with revisions, ignoring the problem sentence. Moved (b) (6)
(b) (6). 2 abstained, all the rest in favor.

MOTION: Strike "We were unanimous in our feeling", and replace it with "The CAG
feels strongly". (b) (6) All agreed.

(b) (6) will also change the letter to have a list of our organizations at the
end of the letter. (b) (6) will make the edits and put the letter on CAG letterhead. Then
(b) (6) will mail it to (b) (6)

ATSDR Report:

This report was written by the Dave Stone at the Oregon DHS with national funding from ATSDR. The report addresses eating fish and crayfish from the Willamette Superfund site. (b) (6) objected that it does not look at water sports participants, divers, etc.

MOTION: The Evaluation Committee should look at the ATSDR report on Human Health. (b) (6). All agreed.

MOTION: The CAG should ask for an extension of the comment period on the ATSDR study. (b) (6) All agreed.

(b) (6) is instructed to ask for the extension. (b) (6) is instructed to set up the evaluation committee meeting.

End of Closed Session

The observers entered, and introductions were repeated.

We reviewed the May, 2005 CAG minutes. Barbara Smith provided William Henemihle's last name. We deleted a sentence in the Evaluation Committee section: Delete "The DEQ people answered the CAG's comments, but said they plan to go ahead with the CDF."

MOTION: Accept May minutes as corrected. Bill Egan/Jim Robison. All in favor.

Robin Plance provided copies of the July 2005 minutes. Sue Safford provided her correct new email address: susan.safford@portofportland.com. In the sentence, "LWG is putting together a "long term trust" at a site in Eastern Washington...", take out "LWG" and replace it with "Barbara Smith is aware of another site that."

MOTION: Accept the July minutes as corrected. Jim Robison/Bill McCauley. All agreed.

Presentation: DEQ, Portland Harbor Joint Source Control Strategy

Mikell O'Mealy is the Portland Harbor outreach coordinator for the DEQ. She gave the presentation, with help from Jim Anderson of the DEQ.

The Record of Decision is expected in 2008.

J.S.C.S. will look at preliminary cleanup goals. There is a map on the DEQ site: <http://www.deq.state.or.us/nwr/portlandharbor/phmap.pdf>

Mikell talked about U.I.C.s, or underground injection control wells. UICs are dry wells that are supposed to be out of use near the Willamette River. Steve Gunther was concerned that UICs are a pathway to pollute the Willamette. The DEQ is looking at stormwater, so they are looking at UICs.

Steve Gunther asked if the DEQ could set standards for characterization and disposal of liquids and sludge from stormwater devices like catchbasins, sumps, and oil/water separators in the Initial Study Area (ISA). Jim Anderson answered that it could be standardized.

Steve also asked Mikell and Jim if they knew the number of functioning Underground Injection Control Devices (UIC's) in the ISA. Jim Anderson responded that they don't know exactly how many are in the ISA, but a number have been decommissioned.

Steve Gunther also asked if CAG members could collect outfall data, then give it to the DEQ to analyze. Mikell said that she'd check.

The DEQ has a spreadsheet of the decision process for joint source control. It is available on the DEQ website.

Regina from Willamette-Riverkeeper went over the rules for cancer risk: Oregon law says that risk must be reduced to lower than 1/million chance of getting cancer, unless there are several carcinogens, in which case each must bear a risk lower than 1/100,000. There are also rules for other, non-cancer risks.

Dorothy Shoemaker asked about stopping Toxic Mixing Zones, and whether they affect the harbor. Mikell said that there are TMZs upstream from the Portland Harbor, and in the harbor itself. They are allowed by Oregon law, but do affect risk. Rhett Lawrence and Dorothy explained that their organizations are working against Toxic Mixing Zones.

Next month, the Lower Willamette Group (LWG) will talk for two hours on sampling data. There will not be a closed session.

Dorothy is to contact Jane Harris about setting up an evaluation committee meeting.

October – CAG elections, risk assessment (Regina, LWG, EPA)

Meeting adjourned by Robin Plance at 8:15 PM.